

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

UNCLAS STATE 198760

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN, UK, GE

SUBJECT: OPRED - COMMERCE PROPOSAL TO TRANSFER FOREIGN NATIONAL
POSITION FROM FRANKFURT TO LONDON

1. COMMERCE/DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (DIBA) WISHES TO TRANSFER A VACANT FOREIGN NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT POSITION FROM THE TRADE CENTER AT FRANKFURT TO LONDON, AS THIS MOVE WOULD APPEAR TO BE IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE USG'S OVERSEAS PROMOTIONAL SERVICES. DURING THE PAST YEAR, THE CONTINUING DEVALUATION OF THE DOLLAR AND RISING SALARY COSTS HAVE GREATLY INCREASED THE COST OF MAINTAINING THE POSITION IN GERMANY. THE TRADE CENTER THERE ESTIMATES THAT A MINIMUM BASE SALARY OF \$14,700 IS REQUIRED TO ATTRACT A PERSON WITH SOME FISCAL OR ACCOUNTING EXPERIENCE UNDER THE CONDITIONS OF OVEREMPLOYMENT PREVAILING IN GERMANY. IN CONTRAST, THE LONDON SCALE FOR A SIMILAR POSITION IS SLIGHTLY UNDER \$7,000. ALTHOUGH STRENUOUS EFFORTS HAVE BEEN MADE, COMMERCE HAS BEEN UNABLE TO FILL THE FRANKFURT POSITIONS WITH A CAPABLE EMPLOYEE. MOREOVER, THE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT WOULD ALSO SERVE US COMMERCIAL EXHIBITIONS IN THE UK, RESULTING IN SAVINGS ON PER DIEM ALSO.

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2. ACTION REQUESTED: COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF OF MISSION ON THIS PROPOSAL INCLUDING ANY IMPACT ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT CAPABILITY OF THE MISSION. COMMERCE BELIEVES THE ADMINISTRATIVE LOAD WOULD BE MINIMAL AS THE NEW LONDON TRADE CENTER, WHICH WILL OPEN NEXT SPRING, WOULD PROVIDE OFFICE AND TRAVEL ORDERS AND VOUCHERS ARE PROCESSED IN WASHINGTON. RUSH

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